

The Young Woman's Club Organization honored as part of Women's History Month



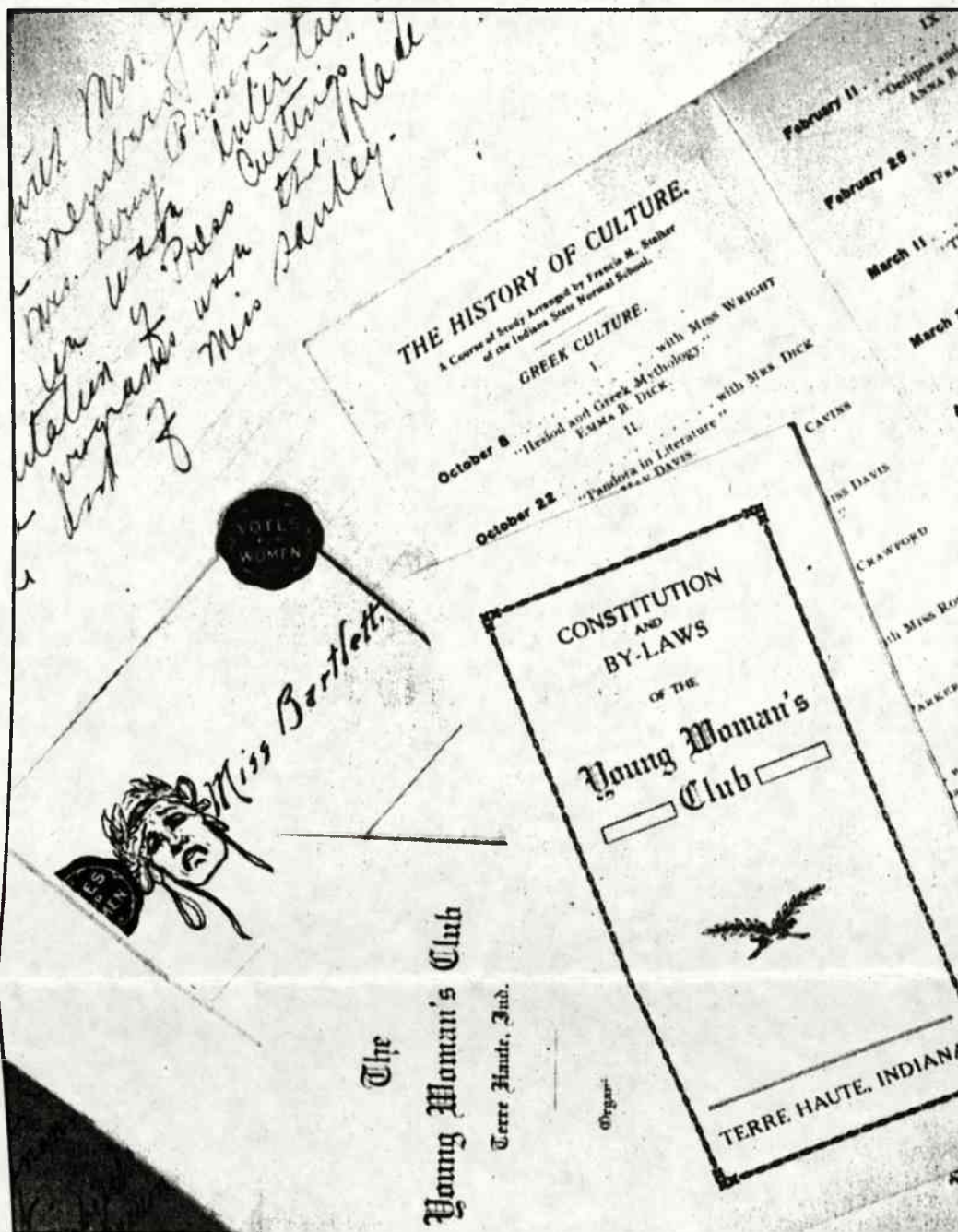
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History: Archival records such as minutes, programs and by-laws document the history of the Young Woman's Club. The records are part of the Community Archives Collection at the Vigo County Public Library.



MINNIE E. HILL
1890

Registrar
Indiana State Normal School



MARTINA C. ERICKSON

Dean of Women
Indiana State
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By Mary-Margaret Bowles
Special to the Tribune-Star

In the latter quarter of the 19th century, organized groups of women throughout Terre Haute and across the country began meeting in each other's homes and in "safe" public places to read, study, and discuss literature, history, art and current topics.

The groups were an outgrowth of the zeal for education reform that was sweeping the United States. They did not exist in isolation from one another but built networks among other such clubs, as well as other types of women's organizations, at the city, district, state and national levels. Formed initially as literary clubs, the groups often added social and political activism to their intellectual pursuits. Archival records at the Vigo County Public Library reveal that Terre Haute had at least 20 literary clubs. One of them was the Young Woman's Club.

The club probably formed in 1891, with eight charter members, two of whom still belonged to the club when it merged with the Woman's Department Club after 1920: Ruth (Walter) Clark and Agnes Parker-Moore, in whose home the club held its first meeting.

A formal organization, the club's constitution specified a strict attendance policy (no more than three consecutive unexcused absences) and limited the membership to 25. The club's stated focus was "the intellectual and social culture of its members" by "a liberal interchange of thought by papers and discussions."



ANNA B. SANKEY
Teacher

Some of the members were related, like sisters Minnie Hill and Mary (Mrs. James) Sankey and cousins Lucy and Lucia Brokaw.

The word "young" does not indicate that the women were adolescents. The club was always composed of an almost even mixture of married and single women, 22 of them belonging to the group for 10 or more years. The minutes always refer to the members formally as "Miss" or "Mrs." along with their last names.

If a woman was married, her husband's first name rather than hers was used.

Most members lived in the neighborhoods surrounding Indiana State University and in nearby Farrington Grove. A few lived in Collett Park and one on Fruitridge Avenue (where there was not yet a street number). Addresses for some of the single women listed only building names like "The Davis" and "The Filbeck Hotel."

One of the club's most prominent and interesting participants was charter member Agnes Parker-Moore (1868-1943).

Never married, her hyphenated last name was a combination of her birth

name (Parker) and her adopted name (Moore) and was perhaps modeled after her adopted mother's name.

Her adopted father, Thad (Dick) Moore, founder of the Moore-Langen Printing Co., was also interested in gardening. His name was at one time listed in the Encyclopedia of Gardening for his work in the propagation of gladiolias.

Her adopted mother, Angeline Lockwood Wilson-Moore, was a graduate of St. Mary-of-the-Woods College and the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. She was a physician for women and children in Terre Haute from 1874 to 1894 before retiring.

Their home provided a rendezvous for interesting women who knew Dr. Wilson-Moore, perhaps through suffrage circles, and who preferred the safety of her home to the hotels of the time. One of those women was Susan B. Anthony.

Parker-Moore was a prominent figure in Terre Haute educational, welfare, church, civic and social circles. She played a role in the founding of the YWCA, the Light House Mission, the Social Settlement of Terre Haute, the Child Welfare Society, and the local



B. PRATT KING
Lecturer, writer

Scheduled . . .

In celebration of Women's History Month, the Vigo County Public Library, the Vigo County Historical Society, and the YWCA are co-sponsoring events during March to honor the Young Woman's Club of Terre Haute.

The Young Woman's Club was organized in the early 1890s as a reading and study club for young women in Terre Haute. The domestic life of women in the 19th century often isolated them in the home. Clubs served an important role in bringing women together to share common interests and to develop a sense of community.

Mary-Margaret Bowles will give a presentation "Reading Women: Terre Haute Young Woman's Club," during the Women's Breakfast at the YWCA from 7 to 7:45 a.m. March 16. Reservations must be made by March 15; YWCA membership is not required. Fee is \$2.50 per person.

Displays on the Young Woman's Club and of some of its colorful members will be featured at both the Vigo County Public Library and the Vigo County Historical Society for the entire month of March.

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ter of the American Red Cross. In 1917, she was appointed chair of the Red Cross canteen committee, where she was the commandant for over 300 women who met almost every train passing through Terre Haute and served over 72,000 soldiers before June 1, 1919.

In 1910, she was traveling abroad with another club member, Anna Sankey. While visiting a temple in Jerusalem, a religious fanatic fired a gun into the crowd and Parker-Moore lost an eye.

This fanatic resented what he called "Christians desecrating the temple." Apparently, however, the loss of an eye did not curtail Parker-Moore's involvement in the study club or any other organization.

Meetings of the Young Woman's Club were held on alternating Saturday afternoons, 2:30 to 4 p.m., from October to May, before the club took a break for "summer vacation." All but two meetings a year were "regular" meetings, with both a business session and a planned study program.

Guests were generally not permitted except on occasions such as the annual guest day. The last meeting of the year in May was a luncheon with some form of entertainment.

The planned program usually involved studying one major topic for the whole year, sometimes for even more than a year, such as literature, the history of culture, art, world religions, travel and, in its later years, local and state political issues. Methods of study included the reading of one or more papers written by members of the group, oral presentations, and discussions.

Since several of the members had traveled abroad, the three years of programs on travel were often supplemented by personal experiences, postcards, "Kodak pictures" and slides.

A variation in study methods occurred during two periods in the club's history when guest professors, both male, designed the courses of study and gave a number of lectures: Professor Francis Stalker of Indiana State Normal School from 1903-1908 and Professor Frank Tilden of DePauw University 1917-1919. For his lectures and the preparation of a study guide on "The History of Culture," Stalker was paid \$25 each year. Three clubs combined to pay Tilden \$80.

The first signs of social and political activism relate to the activity of reading when the

members responded to the Light House Mission's 1900 appeal for support of a reading and coffee room. Each member agreed to contribute 48 cents.

As the years passed, the club became increasingly supportive of social reform. They advocated for pure food laws, child labor protection, woman's suffrage, and Baby Week (which called for a milk station in Terre Haute to supply certified milk for babies).

The members also worked for political reform. They helped to elect the first woman school board member in Terre Haute in 1909, joined other women's organizations in contributing to a salary for a woman probate officer until she was put on the government payroll, and in 1913 did "all in its power" to elect "a man of principles" as city mayor.

During World War I, the Young Woman's Club was very much involved in the war effort, although only eight members had near relatives in the army. In addition to supporting the YWCA and Vigo war funds, they attended lectures on food conservation and sold Red Cross Seals at the Post Office. All 25 belonged to the Red Cross and observed meatless and wheatless days. In addition, they knitted 61 articles, and seven of them adopted French orphans.

The club was eventually absorbed by the Woman's Department Club, which formed in 1920. Unwilling at first to disband, the Young Woman's Club held purely social meetings four times a year through at least 1922.

Ironically, despite this impending merger, during the 1918-1919 club year, the club temporarily changed its name to the Woman's Study Club, although no reason for doing so was stated.

This change did not sit well with some of the older members, especially Agnes Parker-Moore, then 51, who submitted her resignation. Her response prompted the club's decision to return to its original name.

The records do not show how long the members retained some kind of group social cohesion. The ideals which begat the club were subsumed by the Woman's Department Club. Like many other Terre Haute literary clubs, however, it had served its purpose in giving both expression and enrichment to its members.

Possible

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men Seeking Women!

DWM 31, looking for country gal, 25-35, honest & hard working with good sense of humor. Father of one enjoys good clean fun. Reply to voice mail #1562

ATTENTION WIDOWED or RETIRED ladies! This 38 yr. old SWPM would like to hear from you. I'm active, attractive, alcohol/drug free, well-built and available for dating. Age 55+ please. Reply to voice mail #1563

Some say I've done it all, where were you? Very thoughtful "Extremely" young, barely 50 DWM 6'0", 155 lbs. Use no alcohol or drugs, clean habits, financially OK. Interests, anything but sky diving. Watching for Ms. Right 30-mid 40's or 50. Slim, attractive, intelligent, to be my equal. Adventure calls wanna go? Reply to voice mail #1564

SWM 41, 6'3" 250 lbs. looking for someone who has the time to build a strong relationship. I just enjoy being happy. Reply to voice mail #1565

SBM mid to late 20's seeking a single woman who is interested in keeping a man's interest. Mentally as well as physically. A woman who respects themselves & deserves respect given. Only confident woman quality to apply. **End Racism.** Reply to voice mail #1561

Farmersburg, SWM 44, 6'3", 200 lbs., 11pm to 8am worker who is nice looking, sensitive, affectionate w/good sense of humor. Varied interests. Seeking childless woman average height & weight who is warm, sweet & willing to work on an exclusive relationship. Age & race no barrier. Reply to voice mail #1559

SWM 31, tall, blonde hair, blue eyes, very attractive, fun, intelligent, never married. Looking for pretty, honest, shapely, fun-loving SF 21-35. Reply to voice mail #1557

Agassi I'm not, but Tennis-Phile looking for mixed doubles partner, on or off court. Enjoy sports, R & R, nights out, travel. SWPM 29, 5'1", 165 lbs. Reply to voice mail #1558

SWM searching for warm affectionate female. For exciting times, romantic evenings, & moonlight walks. Friendship possible relationship. Kids OK. Reply to voice mail #1556

DWM 31, 6', 195 lbs., non-smoker, no drugs. I enjoy movies, travel, dining out, skiing. Seeking attractive S/DWF 22-32 non-smoker for dating & possible relationship. Reply to voice mail #1555

SWM 32, 185 lbs., 6 ft., educated, travel, nice surprises, variety experiences. Seeking sophisticated country girl, 26-36, slender, one kid OK, for honest relationship. Reply to voice mail #1535

SWM 25, average build seeks attractive full figured female age 28-40 for serious relationship. I enjoy reading, movies, music and fine dining. Reply to voice mail #1538

WM tall, caring, sensitive, affectionate. Enjoys C/W music & country living. Seeking same in WF 45-55. Reply to voice mail #1541

SWM 25, brown eyes 5'5" seeks SBF who is honest, intelligent, and has a good sense of humor and appreciation for jazz. Reply to voice mail #1536

WANTED: tall, slender WF looks good in jeans, must be honest & trustworthy and likes country, horses, camping & dancing. Age unimportant. Small kids not a plus, but would consider. Reply to voice mail #1534

It's all in here spicy, hot & ready to serve with your favorite ingredients. Non-smoker, drinker, blonde, blue eyes. DWM, 5'7", 180 lbs & full of fun. If you are happy & with your lid on straight, 25-40. Call me. Reply to voice mail #1554

22-30 seeking honest, caring, laid back lady. I enjoy dining out or quiet evenings at home. Must like kids, non-smoker/social drinker. Reply to voice mail #1553

DM middle 40's, male Grizabella, seeks female old Dueteronomy hopes to get to heavy side layer and let the memory live again. Reply to voice mail #1545

WWM likes golf, travel & eat out & outdoor sports. Seeking SWF middle 60's for lasting relationship. Reply to #6019

SWM 25, 5'10", 130 lbs., brown hair, hazel eyes. Seeking honest, fun-loving lady who enjoys outdoors, quiet evenings at home, good sense of humor, must be open-minded and like animals. Reply to voice mail #1530

SWM good looking professional N/S, N/D, honest, sincerely seeking 35/45 slender very attractive lady, best friend hopefully more. Picky but I'm worth it. Need Magic. Reply to voice mail #1531

SWM 20, 5'8", 150 lbs., dark hair, dark eyes, smoker. Looking for a honest, trustworthy, fun-loving SWF 18-23 for possible relationship. I enjoy drives in the country, candlelight dinners, variety of music. Reply to voice mail #1533

WPM widowed. Financially secure 57, Christian, Catholic, 6', 180 lbs., fit, attractive. Interested in meeting attractive, trim, Christian lady. My age or yours. I like fun times, eating out, dancing, plays, quiet evenings at home. Reply to voice mail #1551

SWM 24, seeking S/DWF 18-30. Like all outdoor activities, caring, good with kids, honest, romantic, sensitive. Looking for friendship or relationship. Reply to voice mail #1550

73, 390 lbs., would you believe 5'10", 170 lbs. good looking, honest sincere, financially secure, non-drinker, mid 50's, enjoy golf, bowling, cards, antiquing & travel. Looking for intelligent, attractive lady 40's or 50's. Reply to voice mail #1548

SWM 31 yr. old returning college senior new ager. Seeks woman for dating & companionship. I enjoy alternative music, movies, art & poetry, no mind games please. Reply to voice mail #1560

WM looking for special lady to share good times & possible lasting relationship. Must be slender, petite, attractive, 30-40. No bar types. I enjoy festivals, car shows, vacations, etc & quiet evenings with the person I enjoy most, may be you. PS, I have had no complaints on my looks. Reply to voice mail #1546

Never married, romantic SWM, 6'2" good-looking guy, funny, and intelligent. Looking for attractive, SF 30-40 for fun & possible relationship. Marriage possible. Reply to voice mail #1542

DWM 53, 5'11", 175 lbs. Teacher, good looking, non-smoker. I like sports, dancing, country music, kids. Seeking neat, attractive female 38-55. Children would be great. Reply to voice mail #1528

SWM 25, good sense of humor with steady job & car, looking for medium built female, race not important. Like long walks, cuddling, drives in the country, horror movies. Reply to voice mail #1495

WM, 6'1", 250 lbs. I enjoy jokes, dancing, movies, guitar, own my own business. Looking for WF 35-45 who is honest & caring, & sincere about life. Reply to voice mail #1527

women Seeking Men!

DWF 73, active, attractive, looks younger. Humorous, outgoing, dining in/out, varied interests. Seeking WM with similar likes. Reply to voice mail #2416

SWF 32, 5'3", dark brown hair, blue eyes, who enjoys sports, movies, camping, country music & dancing. Looking for SWM 30-40 with similar interests. Reply to voice mail #2434

Full figured SWF seeking fun-loving, relationship. Reddish-blonde hair, green eyes. Great dancer seeks SM 18-30. Race unimportant. Reply to voice mail #2435

SWF enjoys bowling, CW music, oldies, dancing, quiet evenings, looking for SWM 50-60 with same interests. Reply to voice mail #2436

Attractive, heavy SWPF 34 seeking attractive SWM 25-34 for friendship and/or relationship. I enjoy music, dancing, dining out, movies, & travel. Reply to voice mail #2437

SWF 32, 5'6", 140 lbs. blonde hair, hazel eyes, well put together mentally & physically. Non-smoker, light drinker, financially secure, no children. Looking for same. Reply to voice mail #2362

Looking for a nice gentleman to have a fun with, quiet evenings at home, once in awhile a movie & a night out, a home person, like country music, fixing meals for the right man, non-smoker, non-drinker, church & gospel singings. 44-55 nice honest person. Reply to voice mail #2433

DWF 44, 5'8" slender, college-educated. Seeking romantic, affectionate, WM who likes dancing, music, movies and quiet times. Non-smoker, social drinker. Reply to voice mail #2426

DWF 32, looking for that special someone to dance through life with. Seeking S/DWM 35-45 who is honest, caring & has a great sense of humor. No head games please. Reply to voice mail #2427

White middle age lady tall & thin, 100% romantic. Seeking serious relationship. Don't call for games. Reply to voice mail #2430

SWF 43, full figured, affectionate, loves dancing, country music, quiet evenings. Looking for male, non-smoker, honest, fun loving, sincere & drug free. Reply to voice mail #2417

Slim/attractive DWF 27 with brown hair, blue eyes. I like some sports, dancing, very active. Seeking DWM 28-33 with similar interests. Smoker/kids OK. Preferably non-drinker. Looking for possible commitment. Reply to voice mail #2415

DWF 36, petite, brown hair, blue eyes. Love country music & dancing, outdoor activities, camping, fishing, etc. A romantic, must like kids seeking same age 30-45. Must be honest & sincere. Possible relationship. Reply to voice mail #2432

DWF 34, romantic, fun-loving with big heart. Loves to be loved & give love. Like quiet candle light dinners, also likes to be where the action is. Must be honest & like kids. Age unimportant. Reply to voice mail #2431

DWF 2 children seeking fun-loving, sincere, honest, gentleman 25-32. Must like children. I enjoy bowling, C/W music, line dancing. Reply to voice mail #2428

Country gal looking for a good strong relationship. One whom respects one on one love and desires 38-50. If the shoe fits call me. Reply to voice mail #2425

Female tried young toads looking for Prince 40 & older. Will be discreet. Reply to voice mail #2429

DWF 45, I enjoy fishing, hunting, bowling, sports, dancing. Seeking SWM 45-55, must like kids, for friendship & fun times. Reply to voice mail #2405

Creative minded full figured DWF 39 seeking D/SWM 35-49 to share the adventure of life. Must like children. No drugs, no drunks, no games. Reply to voice mail #2407

SWF, great package deal, mom 31 seeking passionate companion and buddy for 7 yr. old son. Enjoy church, music, shopping, & movies. Absolutely no alcohol or drugs. Reply to voice mail #2410

DWF 42, 5'5" tall, 135 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes, country girl, but living in small town. Enjoy the outdoors, movies, travel, romance. Seeking family oriented gentleman 35-55 who wants a monogamous, committed, warm, lasting relationship. Reply to voice mail #2413

SWF 38, full figured, intelligent, loves conversation. Seeks marriage minded SWM who is kind & considerate. Reply to voice mail #2414

SWF 45, looking for someone with good heart, and good sense of humor between 45-55. Non-smoker, non-drinker, no drugs. Preferably tall. Reply to voice mail #2412

SWF 5'7", 25, blue eyes, brown hair, outgoing, love country music, country line dances. Seeking SWM 30-35 with same interest. For possible relationship. Reply to voice mail #2424

SWF 19 petite, brown hair, blue eyes, college student, quiet, shy, enjoys sports, music, conversation. Seeking SWM 19-25 for friendship, fun possible relationship. Reply to voice mail #2423

Exciting romantic good looking SWM some where between a 7 & 10. Desired by classy DWF mid 40's for lasting relationship. Reply to voice mail #2422

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